

Petitioner is asking for a retrograde FCC move that would further complicate amateur radio licensing and further discourage new people from entering the hobby.

All morse code requirements should be dropped immediately.

Morse code will remain in use among amateur radio operators for many years because they enjoy it and because of its well-demonstrated ability to allow communication over long distances with low power under less-than-ideal atmospheric conditions.

Requiring all radio amateurs to demonstrate morse code competence is as absurd as requiring them to demonstrate competence in any other kind of transmission mode in common amateur use.

Many who oppose dropping the code requirement do so primarily because of a reason few if any voice: They fear large numbers of people will become licensed amateur operators, further crowding the already crowded amateur high-frequency radio bands.

The sad fact is that many amateurs, whether they will say so or not, would like to see fewer people operating on the high-frequency bands in order to make it easier for presently licensed amateurs to operate thus.

Morse code, many years ago, WAS amateur radio. Today it is but one of many ways of operating and the only one of which you require demonstrated competence in order to obtain a license.

Tradition? Amateur radio is a constantly evolving, technology-based hobby utilizing a public resource, the airwaves. Any radio hobbyists interested in maintaining traditions should be doing so on their own time, not under government mandate.

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